

downwardly extending portion of the hanger strip is insertable to create an interfering fit between the rearwardly facing projection and the detent members. This slide member further comprises an upwardly extending, resilient backing tab spaced apart from the rearwardly facing projection, the backing tab biasing an aligned detent member of the hanger strip into engagement with the rearwardly facing projection of the hook strip to maintain a predetermined vertical separation between the door hook and the forwardly facing hook member during use.

The present application was filed on February 8, 2001. Knudsen, et. al. ("Knudsen") was published, i.e., issued as a patent, on November 6, 2001, which is after the effective filing date of the present application. Moreover, the inventions recited in claims 1-6 were conceived and reduced to practice prior to November 6, 2001. Thus, the invention of Knudsen, was not patented or described in a printed publication prior to Applicant's date of invention. Moreover, there is nothing in Knudsen to indicate that the hanging and decoration supporting assembly of Knudsen was known by others in this country prior to the date Applicant's invented the inventions recited in claims 1-6. Thus, Applicant submits that the citation of Knudsen is improper, and respectfully requests that Knudsen be withdrawn from consideration.

However, even if Knudsen were to be considered prior art, Knudsen does not render the present invention obvious. The Knudsen hanging and decoration supporting assembly does not provide the vertical adjustment connection as being forwardly facing detents on the hanger strip inserted into a slide member aperture of the hook strip and engaging rearward facing projection and resilient biasing back tab on the hook strip, nor is the Knudsen hanger molded plastic of the polycarbonate resin type. Knudsen provides a metal device wherein the components of the support device are connected via adjustment holes using nuts and bolts.

Neither would the combination of Knudsen with Harlow provide a device which renders Applicant's claimed invention obvious. Harlow provides a device for displaying a decorative plaque. Moreover, the device of Harlow provides a device whereby the opposing members are adjusted vertically relative to one another so as to effectively grip an object such as a decorative plaque. Harlow does not disclose or teach a device which is adjustable so as to selectively alter the vertical position of a decorative article relative to the display surface. Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of Claim 1 would not be obvious in view of Knudsen, nor in view of Harlow or the combination of Knudsen with Harlow. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, and 6

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-13 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U. S. Patent No. 6,311,851 to Knudsen et al. ("Knudsen"), in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,557,455 to Benjamin et al. ("Benjamin"), is also respectfully requested. For the reasons set forth above, the application of Knudsen is not believed proper.

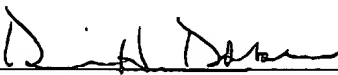
Benjamin does not provide a device for adjustably positioning a decorative article having a rearwardly facing "over the door" hook and also having a forwardly facing support hook for use over a door, cemetery headstone or the like. Benjamin provides a device for displaying a decorative plaque which is mounted to the surface of a wall. Nowhere does Benjamin mention or suggest a device useful for positioning a decorative article over a door or other similar surface. Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of Claim 1 would not be obvious in view of Knudsen, nor in view of Benjamin or the combination of Knudsen with Benjamin. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment to this application and the remarks made above, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Applicant believes that his application is now in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An adjustable wreath hanger comprising:

an elongated hanger strip having an upper end comprising a rearwardly facing, resilient door hook and a downwardly extending portion having a plurality of vertically separated, forwardly facing detent members; and

an elongated hook strip having a lower end comprising a forwardly facing hook member, and upper portion comprising a resilient engagement tab having a rearwardly facing projection, a slide member attached to and cooperating with the upper portion of the hook strip to define an aperture thorough which the downwardly extending portion of the hanger strip is insertable to create an interfering fit between the rearwardly facing projection and the detent members, the slide member further comprising an upwardly extending, resilient backing tab spaced apart from the rearwardly facing projection, the backing tab biasing an aligned detent member of the hanger strip into engagement with the rearwardly facing projection of the hook strip to maintain a predetermined vertical separation between the door hook and the [wreath hook] forwardly facing hook member during use